

St. 13 - 184

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FCC Mail Room

DAVID M. FLEMING
President

JAMIE WALKER
Commissioner

WILLIAM S. BEARD, JR.
Commissioner



February 18, 2014

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom It May Concern:

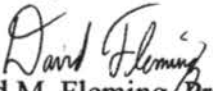
The Pocahontas County Commission is in support of the FCC Rural Broadband Trials and the experimental program to allow surplus from the Connect America Fund to go to rural broadband providers that hadn't previously been eligible for the support. We are also in support of improvements to the E-rate program to improve broadband for our schools and libraries.

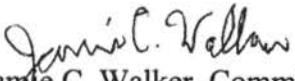
We are keenly aware of the inadequacy of our rural Internet in meeting the broadband needs of our homes, businesses, our schools, our libraries, and our county hospital. Accordingly, the Pocahontas County Commission supports the efforts of all of our existing and would-be Internet Service Providers. A growing and affordable Internet infrastructure is key to reversing the trend of our decreasing population. It is key to providing an economic backbone to allow our young families to stay here and to make a living. It is key to small business growth. It is key to preventing our schools from falling behind in this Information Age; to allowing our students the best and most modern education possible.

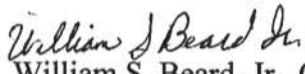
We are grateful that funding for the E-rate program is to be doubled to \$2 billion, and for the other improvements to E-rate that the FCC is making. We hope that these changes will benefit Pocahontas County schools and libraries.

Additionally, we ask that you please help our rural Internet Service Providers by making Connect America funding available to them so they can help us grow Pocahontas County on the World Wide Web. Without your help, we risk falling further behind in the digital divide.

Sincerely,


David M. Fleming, President
Pocahontas County Commission


Jamie C. Walker, Commissioner
Pocahontas County Commission


William S. Beard, Jr., Commissioner
Pocahontas County Commission

Cc: AT&T
Corporate Offices
208 South Akard Street
Dallas, Texas 75202

Frontier Communications
Corporate Headquarters
3 High Ridge Park
Stamford, Connecticut 06905

Shenandoah Telecommunications
540 Shentel Way
Edinburg, Virginia 22824

Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone Inc.
17009 Mountaineer Drive
Riverton, West Virginia 26814